

CLAIMS

1. A method for enabling an original password to be reset on a host computer from a remote workstation by an authorized user without logging onto the host computer, said method comprising the steps of:

storing on said host computer a user registration profile including personal information

5 selected by the authorized user;

connecting said remote workstation to said host computer and capturing the identity of said remote workstation by said host computer;

interrogating the authorized user for the personal information stored on said host computer as said user registration profile;

10 comparing the personal information provided by the authorized user with the personal information stored on said host computer;

15 sending a new user password from said remote workstation to said host computer, provided that the personal information provided by the authorized user matches the personal information that is stored on said host computer; and

resetting the original password on the host computer with said new user password.

2. The method recited in claim 1, including the additional step of the authorized user picking questions and the corresponding answers to be stored on the host computer as the personal information that forms said user registration profile.

3. The method recited in claim 1, including the additional steps of encrypting said user registration profile; and storing said encrypted user registration profile at a secure location of

said host computer.

4. The method recited in claim 1, including the additional steps of storing on said host computer a computer program that is adapted to cause the original password to be reset with the new password sent from said remote workstation to said host computer; transferring said computer program from said host computer to said remote workstation; and executing the
5 computer program on said remote workstation provided that the personal information provided by the authorized user matches the personal information that is stored on said host computer as said user registration profile.

5. The method recited in claim 4, including the additional step of deleting said computer program from said remote workstation following the step of resetting the original user password on the host computer with the new password.

6. The method recited in claim 1, including the additional steps of the authorized user attempting to log onto the host computer from the remote workstation by using a known user name; comparing said known user name with a predetermined reset account name stored on the host computer; and allowing the remote workstation to access the host computer prior to the step
5 of the host computer capturing the identity of the remote workstation, provided that the known user name of the authorized user matches the reset account name stored on the host computer.